

Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team

Accomplishment: Weather Ready Nation

NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation initiative is building community resilience in the face of increased risk and vulnerability to extreme weather events. This is being accomplished through a variety of programs that are helping communities deal with the challenges of extreme weather events.

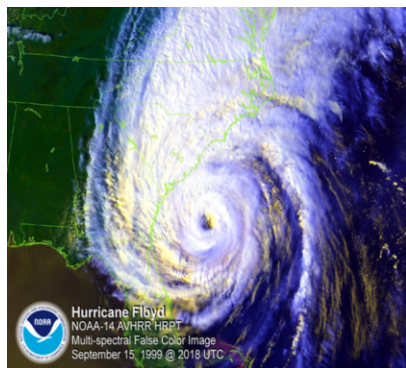


Utilizing its collaborative network of partners, the NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) has worked with the National Weather Service to implement the Weather-Ready Nation initiative in the region. Co-hosted by SECART, a 2012 NOAA All-Hazards workshop in Raleigh, NC highlighted decision support capabilities of NOAA and its partners and helped attendees develop a better understanding of those capabilities. To strengthen the workshop, SECART recommended that it take a "One-NOAA" approach and provided funding to encourage attendance by multiple NOAA line offices.

This workshop enabled participants to gain new information, make new contacts, share best practices from real-world events, and strengthen relationships with others in response and restoration agencies. Presentations focused on current hazards assessment and future predictions, agency response capabilities, incident management, and high-impact event lessons learned from incidents such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Joplin, MO tornado. Presenters represented a diversity of partners such as utility companies, federal agencies, response teams, universities, and multiple NOAA line offices. Geno Olmi, SECART Regional Coordinator, said, "I have no doubt that all participants left the meeting better informed about capabilities within the region and who to go to when the need arises. From a 'One-NOAA' perspective, it was a great opportunity to reach across line offices, learn what each other does, and build relationships for the future." When a major event occurs in the Carolinas, partners will have a firmer grasp of who to contact for a given purpose, helping to ensure that the NOAA response to saving lives and resources will be as rapid as possible.



An additional example of SECART's role in support of the Weather-Ready Initiative was to assist in preparing communities in advance of the Atlantic hurricane season. SECART, NWS Southeast offices, and the National Hurricane Center hosted three webinars on tropical cyclone information during March and April 2012. Topics included wind, storm surge, and storm tide impacts plus tools available to help assess these threats at the local level. The goal is to help emergency services officials and other critical decision-makers answer the question, "What do I need to know to do what I need to do?" Over 60 individuals from Virginia to the Gulf Coast attended each webinar. Another series is scheduled in 2013.



Building a Weather-Ready Nation requires the action of a nationwide network of partners, making the role of SECART an important piece of this initiative. SECART's collaborative network of internal and external NOAA

partners has increased communication and connections across the region, and helps improve community response to weather events in the future.